

California's Changing Demography: More Faces, New Faces

A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET

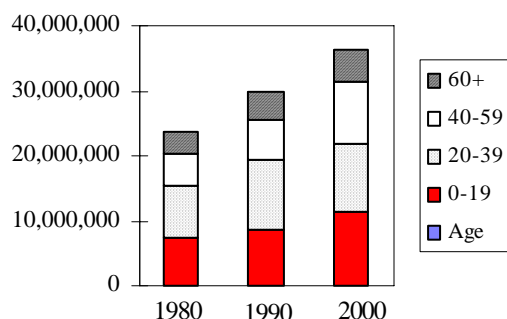


While California has long been a land of rapid change and innovations, the changes occurring in the State's population over the last two decades are almost without precedent. The rapid growth in California's population during and following World War II derived primarily from domestic interstate migration. The social and cultural changes brought by that influx of new Californians pales in comparison to the social and cultural changes that accompany the new Californians of the 1980s and 1990s who entered the state from other countries.

Population growth and diversity

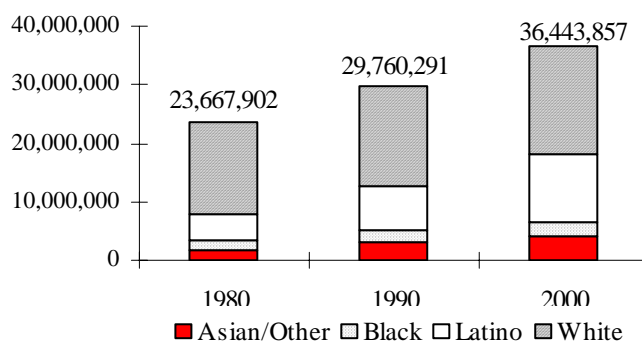
California's population grew by 6.1 million people between 1980 and 1990. Between 1990 and the year 2000, it is expected to increase by another 6.7 million people. The growth did not occur uniformly across the entire population. Disproportional growth occurred among the very young and very old and among both Asian and Latino Californians, as Displays 1 and 2 demonstrate.

DISPLAY 1 Age Composition of California Population, 1980, 1990, and 2000



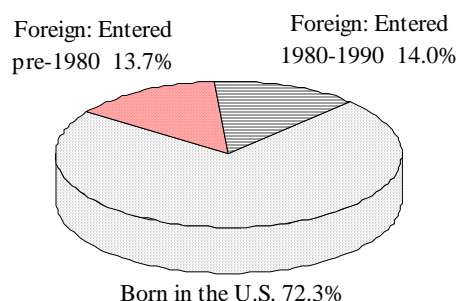
A primary source of this greater diversity in the population composition in 1990 was tremendous growth in migration from other countries during the decade of the 1980s. As Display 3 shows, the proportion of Californians born in another country who entered the State between 1980 and 1990 exceeded the proportion of foreign-born Californians who entered prior to 1980. Asia and Mexico were the primary sources of these new residents.

DISPLAY 2 Racial-Ethnic Composition of California Population, 1980, 1990, and 2000



Substantial in-migration has continued during the current decade. While Asia and Mexico continue to be dominant mainsprings for these new residents, many new residents entered California in the 1990s from Russia, its neighboring states, and the many Eastern European nations no longer politically affiliated with the former Soviet Union.

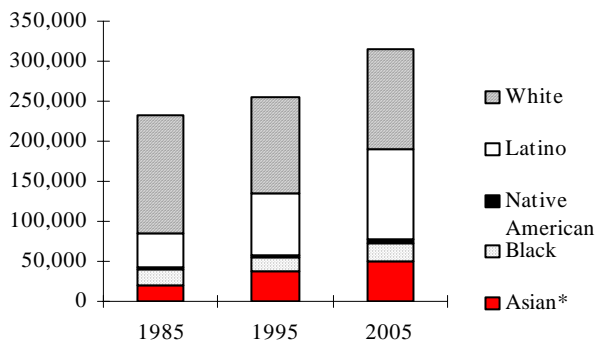
DISPLAY 3 Californians by Place of Birth, 1990



The changing high school population

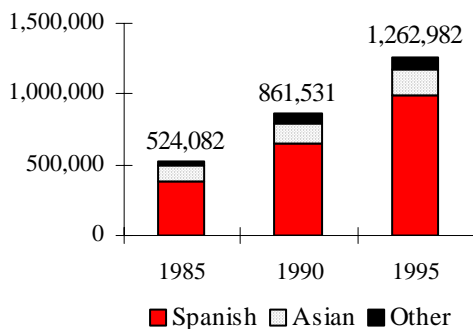
The changes are even more dramatic when the focus is on California's young residents, as Display 4 illustrates. Between 1995 and 2005, the number of public high school graduates is expected to increase by 24 percent. The proportion of White public high school graduates decreased from 61 percent in 1985 to 47.2 percent in 1995 and is expected to be 39.4 percent by 2005.

DISPLAY 4 *California High School Graduates by Racial-Ethnic Group, 1985, 1995, and 2005*



Another clear indicator of increasing diversity among the school age population is the growth in numbers of students who have limited English language proficiency, as shown in Display 5.

DISPLAY 5 *California Public School Children with Limited English Proficiency, 1985, 1990, and 1995*



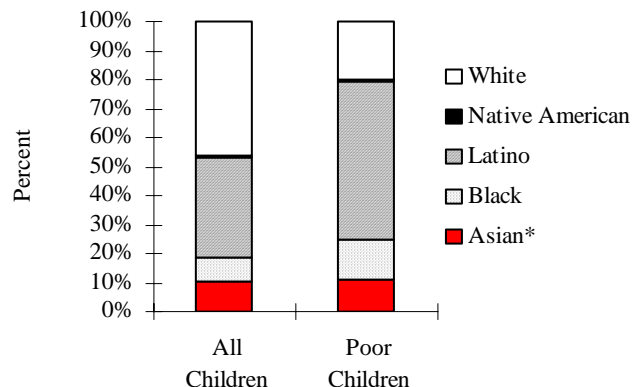
Other challenges

One of the most pervasive challenges facing California is its changing distribution of wealth. Since the 1970s, the income gap between the rich and the poor has grown larger. In California, this difference has grown more as a result of declining income among the poor than because of rising incomes among the wealthy.

Poverty among Californians

By 1996, 5.4 million Californians were living in poverty. Of these, 43.6 percent -- 2.35 million -- were children. Furthermore, as Display 6 indicates, Black, Latino, and Native American children were more likely than others to be living in poverty in 1989. Current population information suggests that these disparities continue today.

DISPLAY 6 *Racial-Ethnic Composition of All California Children and Those Children Living in Poverty, 1989*



The economic recession of the 1990s

During the early part of this decade, California experienced its worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of 1930. State General Funds declined 10 percent between 1991-92 and 1993-94. During this period, State General Fund support of public K-12 education dropped 12 percent and support of public higher education fell 20 percent, as Display 7 illustrates. While California's economy has been rebounding in more recent years, only in the current fiscal year will State General Fund support for higher education finally recover its 1991-92 level.

DISPLAY 7 *Changes in State General Fund Support of Selected Public Services, 1991-92 to 1993-94 and 1991-92 to 1995-96*

